

VISIT...

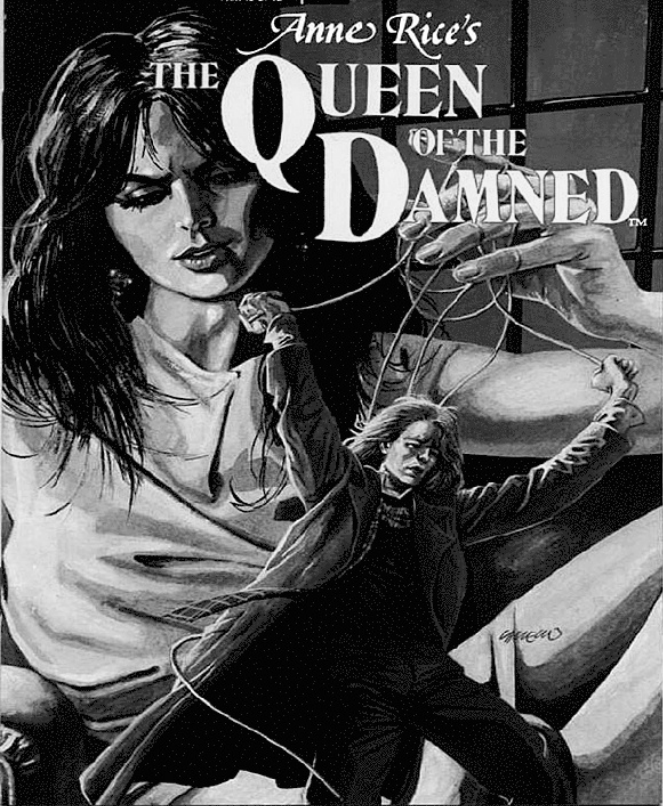
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PART 10 OF 12

Anne Rice's
THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED™





WHEN I AWOKE IT WAS
QUIET, AND THE AIR WAS
CLEAN AND WARM, WITH THE
SMELL OF THE SEA.

I WAS NOW THOROUGHLY CONFUSED AS TO
TIME, AND I KNEW FROM MY **LIGHT-HEADEDNESS**
THAT I HAD NOT SLEPT THROUGH A DAY.

WE'D BEEN FOLLOWING THE **NIGHT** AROUND
THE WORLD, PERHAPS, OR RATHER MOVING AT
RANDOM **IN IT**, AS AKASHA MAYBE DIDN'T
NEED AT ALL TO **SLEEP**.

I NEEDED IT, THAT
WAS **OBVIOUS**.

BUT I WAS TOO **CURIOUS**
NOT TO WANT TO BE AWAKE, AND,
FRANKLY, TOO **MISERABLE**.

AND I'D BEEN **DREAMING**
OF HUMAN BLOOD.

I LAY THERE FOR A MOMENT,
PRINKING IN THE **BEAUTY**
AROUND ME. WE WERE ON A
GREEK ISLAND. I WAS SURE
OF IT.

AND THERE WAS **DEATH** HERE,
TOO. WE HAD BROUGHT IT.

WHEN I LISTENED, I HEARD **CRIES** COMING FROM THE LAND BELOW, **MEN** BEING SLAIN.

AND I COULD SMELL **FIRES** BURNING, **BODIES** BEING BURNT. THE SMELL **NAUSEATED** ME.



WOMEN CAME TO ME, WOMEN WITH **BLACK EYES** AND **SOMBER** FACES.

THEY HAD THE **CRAZED** EXPRESSION OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN **DELIVERED** OUT OF THE ORDINARY...THEY WERE SEEING A **VISION**.



RELUCTANTLY, I READ THEIR **THOUGHTS**.

THEY HAD SEEN THE **BLESSED MOTHER**. THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS HERE. THE **MADONNA**, THE VIRGIN.



SHE'D COME TO THEIR VILLAGES AND TOLD THEM TO **SLAUGHTER** THEIR SONS AND HUSBANDS.

AND THEY HAD **DONE** IT, AND THEY WERE NOW CARRIED UPON A WAVE OF **BELIEF** AND **JOY**.

AS FOR ME, WHAT WAS I TO THEM? NOT **MERELY** A GOD. NOT **MERELY** THE **CHOSEN** OF THE **BLESSED MOTHER**.



NO, SOMETHING **ELSE**.



BUT NOW THE FEELING OF *PEACE*
CAME OVER US. THE FAMILIAR
SCENT OF FLOWERS, THE *SPELL*.

SILENTLY, THROUGH THEIR
MINDS, THE WOMEN
WERE RECEIVING THEIR
INSTRUCTIONS.



I SAW MYSELF FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE THIS SINISTER
ODYSSEY HAD BEGUN. THE *SHOCK*
WAS MORE FOR A MOMENT THAN
I COULD HANDLE.

THIS CAN'T
BE ME.



I WAS MUCH *PALER*
THAN I'D IMAGINED
AND MY EYES WERE
BRIGHTER,
GATHERING ALL THE
COLORS OF THE
SPECTRUM.

I'D BEEN *BLEACHED* BY
AKASHA'S BLOOD.

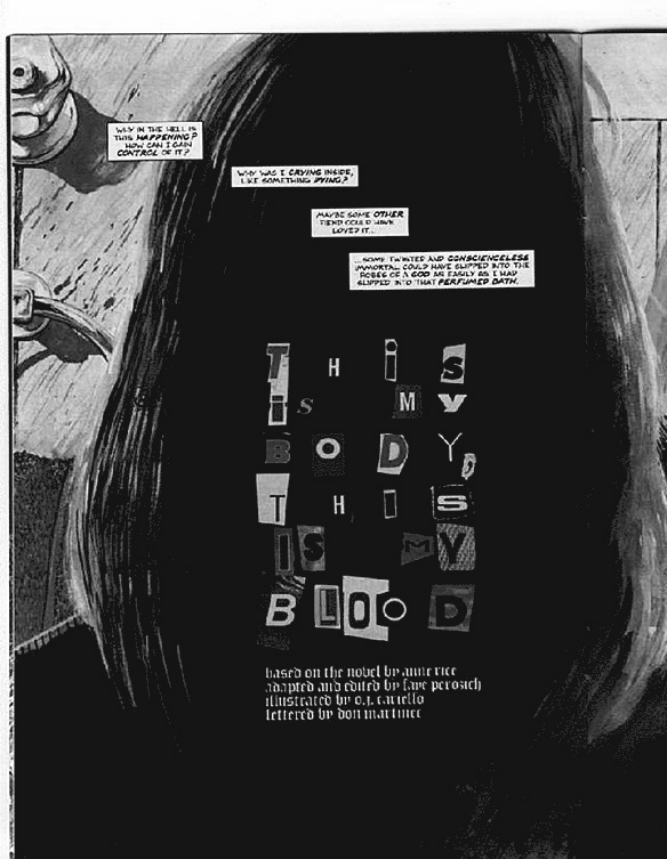


I ALLOWED THEM TO WASH ME. THE
HOT WATER SPLASHED OVER ME
DELICIOUSLY, WASHING AWAY
EASILY ALL THE DIRT THAT
NEVER REALLY CLINGS TO US,
NEVER *PENETRATES* US.

EXTRAORDINARILY PLEASURABLE,
ALL OF IT. YET NEVER HAD I
BEEN SO ALONE.

I WAS SINKING INTO THESE
MESMERIZING SENSATIONS,
I WAS *DRIFTING*.

BECAUSE REALLY THERE
WAS *NOTHING ELSE*
THAT I COULD DO.



WHY IN THE HELL IS
THIS HAPPENING?
HOW CAN I LOSE
CONTROL OF IT?

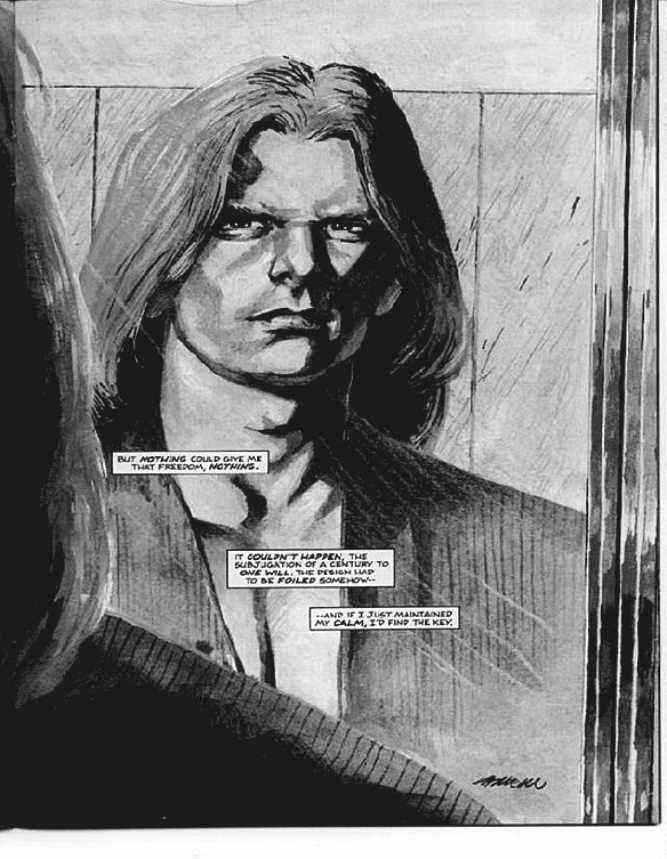
WHY WAS I CRYING INSIDE,
LIKE SOMETHING DYING?

MAYBE SOME OTHER
TENDRILS D'AWAY
LAPPED IT...

...SOME TWINTED AND CONSCIENCELESS
IMMORTAL COULD HAVE SLIPPED INTO THE
ROSES OF A GOD AS EASILY AS I MAY
SLIPPED INTO THAT PERFUMED BATH.

T H I S
B O D Y
T H I S
I S
B L O O D

based on the novel by anne rice
adapted and edited by lara perosich
illustrated by o.j. ciavella
lettered by don matinee



BUT NOTHING COULD GIVE ME
THAT FREEDOM, NOTHING.

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN, THE
SUBJUGATION OF A CENTURY TO
ONE WILL. THE DESIGN HAD
TO BE FOILED SOMEHOW--

--AND IF I JUST MAINTAINED
MY CALM, I'D FIND THE KEY.

AMERICAN



THEN I HEARD LAUGHTER.
FAINT, GENTLE LAUGHTER.



ALL THE MEN ON
THE ISLAND ARE DEAD.
AREN'T THEY?

ALL BUT TEN.
THERE WERE SEVEN
HUNDRED PEOPLE ON THIS
ISLAND. SEVEN HAVE BEEN
CHOSEN TO LIVE.



AND
THE OTHER
THREE?

THEY ARE
FOR YOU.



YOU DON'T WANT
THEM? MY RELUCTANT GOD
WHO SHRINKS FROM
HIS DUTY?



WHERE'S YOUR
COURAGE?



IS IT COWARDICE FINALLY?
DOES THE **GRANDEUR** OF THE
PLAN FRIGHTEN? FOR SURELY
THE **KILLING** MEANS LITTLE.

OH, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG.
THE **KILLING**
ALWAYS MEANS
SOMETHING.

BUT **YES**, THE
GRANDEUR OF THE PLAN
TERRIFIES ME. THE **CHAOS**,
THE TOTAL LOSS OF ALL
MORAL EQUILIBRIUM, IT
MEANS **EVERYTHING**.

BUT THAT'S
NOT COWARDICE.
IS IT?

LET ME **RELEASE** YOU FROM
ALL OBLIGATION TO **RESIST**.
YOU **CANNOT** STOP ME.

I **LOVE** YOU. AS I TOLD
YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T
INFLUENCE ME. SUCH
AN IDEA IS **ABSURD**.

WHY HAVE
YOU **CHOSEN**
THIS WAY?

YOU **KNOW** WHY IT
IS THE **BEST** WAY. IT IS
THE **ONLY** WAY.

SO YOU MEAN TO **KILL**
FORTY PERCENT OF THE
POPULATION OF THE EARTH?
NINETY PERCENT OF
ALL **MALES**?

DO YOU **DENY**
THAT THIS WILL PUT AN
END TO **WAR**. TO **SAVE** TO
VIOLENCE?

IT'S **MADNESS**.
IT'S **MASS MURDER**!
IT'S **AGAINST**
NATURE!



WHAT I SHALL
MAKE IS **EDEN**, THE **EDEN**
ALL LONG FOR, AND
IT SHALL BE **BETTER**
THAN NATURE.

DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT
MEN WILL NEVER
DO MORE THAN **DREAM**
OF PEACE? BUT **WOMEN**
CAN **REALIZE**
THAT DREAM!

THERE HAS TO
BE A WAY **WITHOUT**
DEATH. THERE HAS TO
BE A WAY THAT
TRIUMPHS OVER
DEATH.

WHY HAVE YOU
CHOSEN **ME** AS
YOUR CONSORT?
FOR THE LOVE
OF HEAVEN, WHY
DON'T YOU KILL
ME WITH THE
OTHER MEN?

— — —
CHOOSE
SOME **OTHER**
IMMORTAL, SOME
ANCIENT BEING
WHO **HUNGERS**
FOR SUCH POWER.
THERE **MUST**
BE ONE!

NOW THAT,
MY BEAUTY, IS
TRULY AGAINST
NATURE.

EVEN I
CANNOT PUT
AN END TO
DEATH.

I DON'T WANT
TO RULE THE
WORLD! I DON'T
WANT TO RULE
ANYTHING! I
NEVER DID!

LEST AT
IF **ALL THE**
WORLD WERE
DESTROYED...

...I STILL
WOULD NOT
DESTROY
YOU.



COME, THE WOMEN
ARE WAITING, AND
THE VICTIMS. THEY
ARE AFRAID.

COME, PUT AN
END TO THEIR
SUFFERING.

THE VICTIMS, MY HEAD
WAS OPENING. THE VICTIMS
WOULD BE FULL OF BLOOD.

MALES WHO WOULD HAVE
DIED ANYWAY.



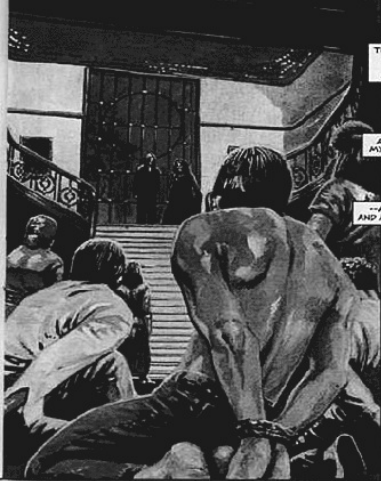
YOUNG MALES ALL
MINE TO TAKE...

THESE WOMEN HAD WITNESSED
A NEW AND TRANSCENDENT
RITUAL-- A NEW HOLY
SACRIFICE OF THE MASS.

AND SUDDENLY,
MY WHOLE SOUL--

--PETTY AS IT WAS
AND ALWAYS HAD BEEN--

--KNEW FEARS I'D NEVER
IMAGINED BEFORE.



AT THE SONOMA COMPOUND...



WE HAVE NO
TIME TO LOSE. YOU
MUST CONTINUE THE
TALK, MARGARET. WE DON'T
KNOW WHEN THE MOTHER
WILL COME HERE.

YES, GO ON WITH
THE STORY, PLEASE.
I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED.

YES—DID
THE KING AND
QUEEN REVOKE
THE SENTENCE OF
EXECUTION?



YES, AND MEHARE,
Sensing that the spirits
were spent **ANYWAY**,
ORDERED THEM WITH GREAT
POMP TO 5'OP.

"THE QUEEN WAS OVERCOME.
SOMETHING **DEEP** HAD BEEN
VIOLATED WITHIN HER HEART.

"SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO
HER WHICH WAS **IRREVOCABLE**...

"THE SPIRITS WERE
DESTROYING HER
FRAGILE FAITH.

"THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN,
AMEL, THE EVIL ONE,
CONCENTRATED ALL
OF HIS POWER AND
POWE AT AKASHA.

"NEVER HAD
I SEEN
SUCH **FURY**."

"ALL OVER THE QUEEN'S
BEAUTIFUL FACE AND ARMS
TINY, BITELIKE **WOUNDS**
APPEARED. SHE SCREAMED
HELPLESSLY.

"AMEL WAS IN
ECSTASY. AMEL
COULD DO
WONDERFUL
THINGS."



"AND WHEN AMEL HAD FINISHED,
WE WERE RETURNED TO OUR CELL.
WE COULD NOT THINK WHAT TO
DO OR HOW TO USE WHAT
LITTLE ADVANTAGE WE NOW
HAD IN AMEL.

"AS FOR AMEL HIMSELF,
HE WOULD NOT LEAVE US.
WE RANTED AND STORMED
IN THE LITTLE CELL.

"HE BOASTED THAT HE
LIKED TO DRAW BLOOD,
THAT IT TASTED GOOD.

"AND THEN IT CAME OUT-THAT
HATRED AND JEALOUSY OF
THE FLESH WHICH IS IN SO
MANY EVIL SPIRITS...

"... THAT FEELING THAT WE
ARE ABOMINATIONS, WE
HUMANS, BECAUSE WE HAVE
BOTH BODY AND SOUL,
WHICH SHOULD NOT EXIST
ON THIS EARTH.

"LIFE SEEMED NOT
WORTH IT. IT
SEEMED A JOKE.

"MY WORLD WAS
DARKNESS AT
THAT MOMENT,
DARKNESS AND
SLIPPING.

"ALL THAT I WAS NO
LONGER MATTERED,
NOTHING I LOOKED
AT COULD MAKE ME
WANT TO BE ALIVE."



"FOR THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE WERE KEPT PRISONER, UNTIL FINALLY WE WERE BROUGHT AGAIN BEFORE THE ENTIRE COURT."

YOURS IS A GREAT GIFT, BUT YOU HAVE MISUSED IT, AND IT CAN BE OF NO USE TO ANYONE ELSE.



I WOULD HAVE YOU BURNED TO PLEASE THE PEOPLE, BUT MY QUEEN AND I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

I WILL RELEASE YOU, BUT FIRST I WILL DEMONSTRATE TO ALL THE COURT THAT YOU HAVE NO POWER, SO THAT THE PRIESTS WILL BE APPEASED.



BUT FOR THE LOVE OF MY QUEEN, I WOULD TAKE MY PLEASURE OF THESE TWO WOMEN, WHICH IS MY RIGHT.



I WOULD DO IT BEFORE YOU ALL TO SHOW THAT THEY HAVE NO POWER AND ARE NOT GREAT WITCHES, BUT ARE MERELY WOMEN.

MY CHIEF STEWARD, KHAYMAN, MY BELOVED KHAYMAN, WILL BE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF DOING IT IN MY STEAD.



"OF COURSE WE REALIZED WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. WE WERE TO BE RAPED BEFORE THE COURT.

"THE SPIRITS CLAMORED AGAINST WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN, BUT FOR OUR VERY LIVES, WE TOLD THEM TO BE QUIET.

"AND THEN KHAYMAN SET ABOUT TO DO WHAT HE HAD TO DO."

"IT WAS NIGHTFALL WHEN WE WERE LEFT AT THE EDGE OF THE DESERT.

"THE SOLDIERS GAVE US WHAT FOOD AND DRINK WAS ALLOWED, AND WE STARTED OUR LONG JOURNEY NORTH. OUR **RAGE** THEN WAS AS GREAT AS IT HAD **EVER** BEEN.

"MANY THINGS BEFELL US ON OUR LONG JOURNEY WHICH ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO TELL HERE.

"THE SPIRITS MADE **RAIN** FOR US AS LONG AS THEY COULD, BUT FINALLY WE WERE TOO DEEP IN THE DESERT FOR SUCH A THING, AND WE WERE **DYING**...

"AND I KNEW I HAD A **CHILD** FROM KHAYMAN IN MY WOMB, AND I WANTED MY CHILD TO **LIVE**.

"IT WAS THEN THAT THE SPIRITS LED US TO THE **BEDOUIN** PEOPLES, AND THEY TOOK US IN, AND THEY **CARED** FOR US.

"AT LAST, WITH THE FOOD AND DRINK THE **BEDOUIN** HAD GIVEN US AND THE SPIRITS TO GUIDE US, WE CAME INTO THE GREEN FIELDS OF **PALESTINE**--

"--AND FOUND THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SHEPHERD PEOPLE, SO LIKE OUR **OWN** TRIBE, WHO HAD COME DOWN TO CLAIM OUR OLD GRAZING PLACES.

"THEY **KNEW** US AND THEY CALLED US BY NAME, AND IMMEDIATELY TOOK US IN."

"I GAVE BIRTH TO MY DAUGHTER AND NAMED HER MIRIAM, AS MY MOTHER HAD BEEN NAMED BEFORE ME.

"WE WERE **THREE** AGAIN, AND WE TRIED TO **FORGET** THE HORRORS WE HAD SEEN IN EGYPT.



"BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE."



A TERRIBLE EVIL HAS COME OVER THE KING AND QUEEN OF KEMET, AND YOUR **SPIRITS** HAVE DONE IT...



...YOUR SPIRITS THAT **TORMENTED** NIGHT AND DAY FOR WHAT I **DID** TO YOU, UNTIL THE KING SOUGHT TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF MY HOUSE.

OH, YOU DON'T KNOW THE **MISERY** IN WHICH I HAVE LIVED, FOR **NOTHING** COULD PROTECT ME FROM THESE SPIRITS!

BUT WE HAVE NOT **DONE** THIS! IT IS **AMEL**, THE EVIL ONE WHO HAS **DONE** THIS!



WHATEVER AMEL DOES, HE WILL **TIRE** OF, KHAYMAN.

IF THE KING AND QUEEN ARE **STRONG**, HE WILL EVENTUALLY GO AWAY.

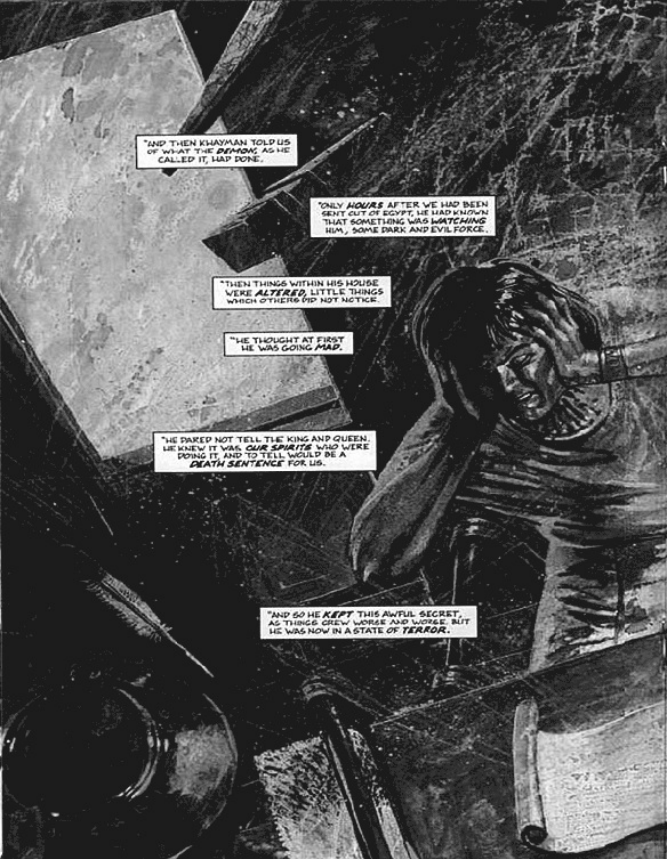


BUT YOU DO NOT **UNDERSTAND** WHAT THIS SPIRIT HAS **DONE**, HIS BEDEVILING HAS COME TO AN END.



HE HAS GONE **INTO** THE KING AND QUEEN! HE IS IN THEIR **BODIES**!

HE HAS CHANGED THE VERY **SUBSTANCE** OF THEIR **FLESH**!



"AND THEN KHAYMAN TOLD US
OF WHAT THE *DEMONG* AS HE
CALLED IT, HAD DONE.

"ONLY *HOURS* AFTER WE HAD BEEN
SENT OUT OF EGYPT, HE HAD KNOWN
THAT SOMETHING WAS WATCHING
HIM, SOME DARK AND EVIL FORCE.

"THEN THINGS WITHIN HIS HOUSE
WERE *ALTERED*, LITTLE THINGS
WHICH OTHERS DID NOT NOTICE.

"HE THOUGHT AT FIRST
HE WAS GOING *MAD*.

"HE DARED NOT TELL THE KING AND QUEEN.
HE KNEW IT WAS *OUR SPIRITS* WHO WERE
DOING IT, AND TO TELL WOULD BE A
DEATH SENTENCE FOR US.

"AND SO HE *KEPT* THIS AWFUL SECRET,
AS THINGS GREW WORSE AND WORSE. BUT
HE WAS NOW IN A STATE OF *TERROR*.



"SOMETHING WAS WITH HIM IN HIS HOUSE. HE COULD HEAR ITS BREATH UPON HIS FACE.

"HE BEGAN TO TALK TO IT, ASK IT TO GET OUT, BUT THIS ONLY SEEMED TO INCREASE ITS STRENGTH.

"THE SHUTTERS RATTLED AND THEN WERE TORN FROM THEIR PIVOTS. THE FURNITURE BEGAN TO SKITTER ABOUT.

"PRIESTS CAME TO EXORCISE THE DEMON, BUT THE MORE THE PRIESTS PRAYED AND SANG, THE MORE THE DEMON RAGED.

"THE KING AND QUEEN CRIED THAT WE SHOULD BE FOUND AND BROUGHT BACK TO BE BURNT ALIVE. AND THEN THE DEMON WOULD BE QUIET.

"BUT THE OLD FAMILIES DID NOT AGREE. NO, IT WAS THE KING AND QUEEN WHO WERE EVIL. THE KING AND QUEEN WHO MUST DIE.

"THE KINGDOM, FINALLY, WAS ON THE VERGE OF CIVIL WAR."

"AT LAST THE KING AND
QUEEN CAME TO KHAYMAN."

NOW THINK
WHAT THOSE
WITCHES TOLD
US, KHAYMAN.



THERE ARE BUT *SPIRITS*--
NOT *DEMONS*. AND THEY CAN
BE REASONED WITH.

IF ONLY I COULD
MAKE THEM *HEAR* ME AS THE
WITCHES COULD, AND MAKE
THEM *ANSWER*.

NOW GO,
LEAVE US ALONE
WITH THIS THING FOR
I WILL *LEARN*
FROM IT...

...I WILL
UNDERSTAND WHAT
IT WANTS.

"FOR TWO WHOLE NIGHTS AND DAYS,
THE KING REMAINED WITH THE
DEMON, AND SO DID THE QUEEN.

"AND THEN THE OLD FAMILIES,
THE *FLESH EATERS*, GATHERED
OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

"THE KING AND QUEEN
WERE IN *ERROR*--IT
WAS TIME TO *SEIZE*
THE FUTURE OF KEMET.

"THEY WOULD *KILL* THE KING AND
QUEEN, AND IF THE PEOPLE RAIGED
ANY *OUTCRY*, THEN THEY WOULD SAY
THAT THE *DEMON* HAD DONE IT--

"...AND WHO COULD
SAY THAT THE
DEMON HAD *NOT*?"

"FROM THE PALACE, KHAYMAN HEARD A
HORRID WAILING FROM THE QUEEN. SOUNDS
SUCH AS HE HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE."



YOUR
HIGHNESS!



NO!!

KHAYMAN, MY
KHAYMAN!

WHAT HAS
BEFALLEN
ME!





ENKIL,
HELP ME. ENKIL,
DO NOT DIE!



Akasha...
my Queen...



KHAYMAN--YOUR
DAGGER. GIVE IT TO ME.
FOR THEY HAVE TAKEN THEIR
WEAPONS WITH THEM.

YOUR
DAGGER. I
MUST HAVE IT
NOW.





"THE KING'S WOUNDS HEALED.
KHAYMAN SAW IT. HE SAW THE
GREAT GASHES CLOSING."





TOMORROW NIGHT WHEN THE SUN SETS, YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT HAS HAPPENED. FOR THEN AND ONLY THEN, WHEN ALL THE LIGHT IS GONE FROM THE WESTERN SKY, WILL THEY APPEAR, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE WHAT I HAVE SEEN.

NOT A DAY SINCE HAVE THEY APPEARED BEFORE **SUNSET**. THEY CANNOT BEAR A CANDLE OR A LAMP TOO **CLOSE** TO THEM.

THE SUN GOD, **RA**, IS THE OLDEST AND GREATEST GOD OF ALL KEMET. AND THIS GOD HAS TURNED AGAINST THEM. **WHY?**

WHEN THEY EXECUTE THEIR ENEMIES IN SECRET, THEY DRINK THEIR **BLOOD**. THE THIRST **MADDENS** THEM, THEY ARE FRIGHTENED IT WILL BECOME MORE THAN THEY CAN BEAR.

YOU MUST **SAVE** THEM. YOU **MUST** DO IT FOR OUR PEOPLE. THEY HAVE NOT SENT FOR YOU TO **BLAME** YOU OR **HARM** YOU. THEY **NEED** YOU.

YOU ARE **POWERFUL WITCHES**. MAKE THIS SPIRIT **UNDO HIS WORK!**



"WE FOUND THE PALACE THE SAME AS WE REMEMBERED IT. WE WERE TAKEN INTO THE DEPTHCHAMBER OF THE ROYAL COUPLE--"

"--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE BEHELD THE TRANSFORMATION WITH OUR OWN EYES."



KHAYMAN'S TOLD YOU WHAT HAS BEFALLEN US. WE STAND BEFORE YOU THE BENEFICIARIES OF A GREAT MIRACLE--

--FOR WE HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER CERTAIN DEATH.



YOU MUST EXPLAIN THIS TO US! WHAT HAS YOUR SPIRIT DONE?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS THIRST IS TO US? WE CANNOT SATISFY IT!

THREE, FOUR MEN A NIGHT *PAUSE* TO FEED US, YET WE GO TO OUR BED TORTURED BY THIRST!



ADVISE US, MEKARE AND MAHARET, FOR WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS TRANSFORMATION AND HOW IT MIGHT BE USED FOR GOOD.



WE KNOW NO
STORIES OF SUCH
A THING EVER
HAPPENING IN THIS
WORLD BEFORE, BUT
IT'S PLAIN
ENOUGH WHAT
TOOK PLACE.



AS YOU
PERCEIVED YOUR
OWN DEATH,
YOUR SOUL
SOUGHT TO MAKE
ITS SWIFT
ESCAPE FROM
SUFFERING, AS
SOULS SO OFTEN
DO.

BUT AS
IT ROSE, THE
SPIRIT AMEL
SEIZED IT.



SO THE SPIRIT,
THIRSTING, PLUNGED
DOWN INTO YOUR BODY,
HIS INVISIBLE FORM
WEDDED TO
YOUR SOUL.

THE SPIRIT'S
TINY CORE MERGED
WITH THE FLESH
OF YOUR BODY, AND
A NEW THING
WAS FORMED.



IT'S
HEART AND MY
HEART.
THEY BECAME
ONE.



BUT
HOW CAN IT BE
RELEASED?

YES,
HOW CAN IT
BE MADE TO
DEPART?



DESTROY YOUR
BODY, AND IT WILL
BE DESTROYED
AS WELL.

DESTROY
HER BODY!

WE ARE DEAD
THINGS, AREN'T
WE? WE CANNOT
LIVE IF IT
DEPARTS. THESE
ARE NOT LIVING
BODIES NOW.
THESE ARE
HOSTS FOR
THIS DEMON.



EITHER
THAT... OR WE
ARE TRULY
GODS!



ANSWER US,
WITCHES. COULD
IT BE THAT WE ARE
DIVINE BEINGS
NOW, BLESSED WITH
GIFTS THAT ONLY
GODS SHARE?



NO. IT COULD
VERY LIKELY PASS
INTO **ANYONE**, WERE
THE CONDITIONS
DUPLICATED.



YOU DID
THIS
TO US!



DAMN YOU INTO THE
LOWER WORLD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE TO US! ANIMATIONS! WYFENER!
YOU AND YOUR DEMON!

YOU SENT
THIS DEMON!
WE READ IT FROM
YOUR HEARTS,
JUST AS I READ
IT NOW--THAT
YOU WISHED US
EVIL!

OH, DON'T YOU SEE, WE'VE
BEEN FOOLS TO LISTEN TO
THESE MERE MORTALS,
WHO HAVE NOT SUCH
POWERS AS WE HAVE!

WE ARE
YOUNG DIVINES
AND MUST STRUGGLE
TO LEARN THE
DESIGNS OF
HEAVEN.

SURELY OUR
DESTINY IS
PLAIN--WE SEE
IT IN THE
GIFTS WE
POSSESS!

TAKE THEM
PRISONER!
TOMORROW NIGHT
I WILL PASS
JUDGMENT UPON
THEM BEFORE THE
WHOLE COURT.

I THINK
YOU ARE DOOMED,
MY RED-HAIRED
ONES.



I DO NOT WANT YOU TO
BE AFRAID, BUT YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT THE MOTHER HAS
CROSSED THE GREAT EASTERN
SEA. SHE AND LESTAT
ARE CLOSER NOW...

LESTAT CALLS, BUT
IT IS TOO FAINT FOR
ME TO HEAR WORDS, TOO
FAINT FOR PICTURES.

IT IS NOT HARDER,
HOWEVER, THAT MUCH I
KNOW--AND THAT I HAVE
LITTLE TIME NOW TO
FINISH THIS STORY...



THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND.
THE GARDEN OF GOD.

I STOOD ON THE HILTOP
AND I TRIED NOT TO **SEE**
THIS PARADISE. I TRIED TO
PICTURE THOSE I **LOVED**.

IF ONLY I COULD SEE THEIR FACES
OR HEAR THEIR VOICES...

MARINE, DO NOT BE THE
ANGRY FATHER. HELP ME!
HELP US ALL! I DO NOT
GIVE IN, BUT I AM **LOSING**!

I AM LOSING MY **SOUL**
AND MY **MIND**. MY **HEART**
IS ALREADY GONE.

IT BELONGS
TO **HER**.

AM TO BE HERE
FOREVER. AND **WITH HER**.
AND FOR THE REST TO BE
FORGOTTEN. NO
DEATH. NO **KILLING**.

D. J. ...



THERE IS NO
LIFE WITHOUT
DEATH.

I AM THE WAY NOW,
THE WAY TO THE ONLY
HOPE OF LIFE WITHOUT
STRIFE THAT THERE MAY
EVER BE.



AND SUPPOSE
IT IS WRONG
AND THE WORLD
IS WORSE FOR
IT, AND IT IS
ALL HORROR
FINALLY--

--UNREALIZABLE,
INEVITABLE,
WHAT THEN?

AND ALL THOSE
MEN IN THEIR GRAVES,
THE WHOLE EARTH A
GRAVEYARD AND
NOTHING IS
BETTER AND IT'S
WRONG, WRONG



WHO'S TO
TELL YOU IT
IS WRONG?
MARRIUS?

DON'T YOU
REALIZE THERE
ARE NO FATHERS
NOW? ANGRY
OR NO?

THERE ARE BROTHERS, AND THERE
ARE SISTERS, AND IN EACH OTHER
WE FIND OUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS,
ISN'T THAT SO?



BROTHERS AND SISTERS
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE
YOUR REAL BROTHERS
AND SISTERS?

YES, I
WANT TO SEE
THEM.

PLEASE.

THEY MEAN SO MUCH
TO YOU, DON'T THEY? WHAT
DO YOU THINK THEY WILL DO?
DO YOU THINK MARIUS WILL TURN
ME FROM MY COURSE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT
OF ME NOW? THAT FOR YOU
I RENOUNCE MY THRONE,
MY DESTINY?

YOU CAN READ
MY HEART. YOU KNOW
WHAT I WANT--

--THAT YOU GO TO
THEM, THAT YOU GIVE THEM
A CHANCE TO SPEAK ON THESE
THINGS AS YOU'VE GIVEN ME
THE CHANCE.

OH, BUT LESTAT,
I DO NOT LOVE THEM,
SO WHAT DOES IT
MATTER TO ME WHAT
THEY SAY?

BUT YOU NEED
THEM. YOU SAID THAT
YOU DID. HOW CAN YOU BEGIN
WITHOUT THEM?

YOUR
ANGELS, THAT'S
WHAT YOU CALLED
THEM.

VERY WELL.
MY LOVE, WE'LL GO
TO YOUR BROTHERS AND
SISTERS, IF YOU WISH IT.
WE'LL GO TO MARIUS.

BUT FIRST,
LET ME HOLD YOU
ONE MORE TIME, CLOSE
TO MY HEART.



YOU SEE, I
CANNOT *BE* OTHER
THAN WHAT I *WOULD*
BE. *THIS* IS WHAT
YOU WAKED WITH YOUR
SINGING.

THIS
IS WHAT
I AM!



HERE, THE WARM
CARIBBEAN BREEZE,
HER HANDS MOVING
UP MY BACK, HER
FINGERS SLIPPING
THROUGH MY HAIR.



AND HER LIPS ON
MY THROAT
FINALLY, THE
SLIPPERY STAB OF
HER *TEETH*
THROUGH MY
FLESH. YES!

AS IT HAD
BEEN IN THE
SHRINE SO LONG
AGO. YES!



HER BLOOD AND MY
BLOOD AND THE
DEAFENING THUNDER
OF HER HEART.

AND IT WAS ECSTASY, AND
YET I COULDN'T YIELD; I
COULDN'T DO IT...

...AND SHE
KNEW IT.